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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS, SFWMD REDUCE LAKE OKEECHOBEE DISCHARGES TO ESTUARIES

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Water managers for the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District will begin a transition toward a Level 3 pulse release beginning Friday, Oct. 10, 2003. The lake elevation today is 17.09 feet, which is in Zone C of the Water Supply and Environmental Regulation Schedule.

Discharges to the estuaries will be reduced on Friday to 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at St. Lucie Lock and Dam (S-80) on the St. Lucie Canal and to 3,000 cfs at Moore Haven Lock and Dam (S-77) on the Caloosahatchee River.

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 11, a Level 3 pulse release will begin. This pulse release will continue for 10 days at an average rate of 3000 cfs to the Caloosahatchee River and 1,170 cfs to the St. Lucie Canal. The pulse release will be made through Structures S-77 and S-80.

The Lake Okeechobee area is experiencing a reprieve from rising water levels due to a decline in Kissimmee River Basin inflows, evaporation due to plentiful sunshine, and a below average rainfall forecast. The downward transitioning of discharges is intended to maintain the recession in Lake Okeechobee water levels that has just begun.

More in-depth water level data for Lake Okeechobee and the Central and Southern Florida Project can be found on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Water Management and Meteorology Section Homepage at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/h2o/>.